



# Refugee Council of Australia

5 December 2012

## DAVID BITEL

Everyone associated with the Refugee Council of Australia was shocked to hear today of serious charges being laid against David Bitel.

Over the past three decades, David has made a positive and substantial contribution to the Refugee Council of Australia and many other organisations involved in the protection of people in need. Like all Australians, he is entitled to the presumption of innocence until the charges against him are determined by the courts.

David has tendered his resignation as a trustee of the Australian Refugee Foundation and this resignation has been accepted. In addition, the Refugee Council of Australia has decided to suspend his life membership of the organisation, pending the court's determination of the case against him.

*Phil Glendenning  
President, Refugee Council of Australia  
Convenor, Board of Trustees, Australian Refugee Foundation*